

Application Serial Number 10/511,479
Response to Office Action
Dated

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2. Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A voltage converter for converting an input voltage to an output voltage comprising a plurality of cascaded voltage multipliers and control circuitry for controlling the plurality of voltage multipliers, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the control circuitry comprises a switching means for activating at least one first voltage multiplier selected from the plurality of voltage multipliers and for switching at least one further voltage multiplier located in the cascade before the first voltage multiplier in the same way as the first voltage multiplier.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A voltage converter according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein that switching comprises activating and/or disabling.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A voltage converter according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the first voltage multiplier is one of a number of activated voltage multipliers also located in the cascade at a second or higher order stage ~~at most,~~
~~in particular~~ located in a sequence of stages at the end of the cascade.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A voltage converter according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the further voltage multiplier is one of a number of further voltage multipliers located at the first or higher order stages of the cascade, ~~in particular~~ located in a sequence of stages at the beginning of the cascade.

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5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A voltage converter according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that~~wherein at least one of the plurality of voltage multipliers is formed
by a charge pump.
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A voltage converter according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that~~wherein the charge pump comprises a charge storage element,~~in
particular a capacitor, a switch, in particular a MOSFET switch, and a driver, in particular
a bottom plate driver.~~
7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A voltage converter according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that~~wherein one or more of the voltage multipliers have at least one
clock input.
8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A voltage converter as claimed in claim 7,
~~characterized in that~~wherein the control circuitry is connected to the clock input for
supplying a clock signal to the voltage multiplier for controlling the voltage multiplier.
9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A voltage converter according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that~~wherein the switching means is a programmable logic device.
10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A voltage converter as claimed in claim 9,
~~characterized by~~ further comprising a programming means for operating the switching
means as a function of the output and/or the input voltage.
11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A voltage converter as claimed in claim 9,
~~characterized in that~~wherein the programming means comprises a software code section
capable of activating a number of one or more first voltage multipliers in case of
insufficient input voltage.

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12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A voltage converter as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the programming means comprises a software code section for disabling a number of voltage multipliers selected from the plurality of voltage multipliers in case of sufficient input voltage.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A voltage converter as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the programming means comprises a software code section capable of selecting a number of one or more further voltage multipliers from the disabled voltage multipliers for switching the further voltage multipliers in the same way as the activated first voltage multiplier.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A driving~~Driving circuit, comprising a voltage converter as claimed in claim 1, ~~in particular a driving circuit for a display device.~~

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~A driving~~Driving circuit as claimed in claim 14, working under a current load of 0.1 mA to 10 mA.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~Method~~A method of converting an input voltage to an output voltage by means of a voltage converter comprising a plurality of cascaded voltage multipliers, ~~characterized in that~~wherein at least one first voltage multiplier selected from the plurality of voltage multipliers is activated and at least one further voltage multiplier located in the cascade before the first voltage multiplier is switched in the same way as the first voltage

17. (NEW) A voltage converter for converting an input voltage to an output voltage, comprising:

a plurality of cascaded voltage multipliers and control circuitry adapted to control the plurality of voltage multipliers, the control circuitry further comprising:

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a bottom plate driver adapted to activate at least one first voltage multiplier selected from the plurality of voltage multipliers and to switch at least one further voltage multiplier located in the cascade before the first voltage multiplier in the same way as the first voltage multiplier.

18. (NEW) A voltage converter as claimed in claim 17, wherein a logic device commands the bottom plate driver to switch the at least one further voltage multiplier.